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Federal Equity Courts. Such an examination and comparison will disclose that the substantial features of the old procedures have been preserved in the new and that the procedure which has been theirs for a century has not been revolutionized.

R. E. B.

BOUVIER'S LAW DICTIONARY AND CONCISE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE LAW. A new revision by Francis Rawle, Esq., of the Philadelphia Bar. 3 vols., pp. xviii, 3504. West Publishing Co., St. Paul, Minn., 1914.

Peculiar interest attaches to the announcement of the publication of a new revision of BOUVIER'S LAW DICTIONARY by reason of the fact that this work has remained the standard for use in this country ever since its first publication in 1839 by John BOUVIER. It stands as an enduring monument to the industry and perseverance of one who may be fitly called a "self-made" lawyer, for John BOUVIER did not have very many of the advantages which are afforded the student of the law at the present day. It was the lack of carefully digested treatises of the law suited to the needs of the student on this side of the Atlantic, that induced him to undertake the preparation of this work. In it he undertook not only to define our legal words and phrases, but at the same time to point out the authorities where the student might continue his study. The success with which he wrought is evidenced by the numerous editions which have been called forth by the profession.

This is the third edition prepared by the present editor, whose work in connection with the editions prepared by him has been so extensive that they have come to be known under the distinctive name of RAWLE'S REVISIONS. The work in its present form purports to be not only a dictionary but a concise encyclopedia of our law as well, and it is toward the perfection of its encyclopedic features that the efforts of the editor in the present revision have been chiefly directed. The various topics have been carefully revised and extended to bring them up to date, and the titles of both State and Federal cases have for the first time been inserted, as well as the volumes of the different series of reports other than those of the official series.

The nature and size of the work necessarily preclude anything but the most elementary treatment of the various subjects of our law, but what has been done in this direction appears to have been done with ability and discrimination. Take for example the title "Bill of Exchange" which the writer has selected at random. We have first a definition of the term together with a description of the various kinds of bills of exchange and their legal incidents. This is followed by a brief statement of the essential requisites of a valid bill of exchange and its usual characteristics, with citation of authorities both primary and secondary for the propositions adduced. The general plan seems to be to present the various topics in brief outline, and at the same time to point out the sources where the student may make a more detailed study. A great many new dictionary terms have also been added to meet the requirements of our changing legal terminology. The book is replete with learning and shows a painstaking search for the truth. The editor has not hesitated

to draw from the civil and canon law where that has been necessary to explain the present state of our law.

Some minor inaccuracies are to be found, but absolute verity can hardly be expected in a work of such magnitude. However, by reason of the fact that it is limited to a statement of elementary principles, the present edition, like those which have gone before it is valuable chiefly to the student and practitioner who are seeking a concise statement of the fundamental principles of our law.

G. C. G.

THE EVIDENCE IN THE CASE, IN THE SUPREME COURT OF CIVILIZATION AS TO THE MORAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE WAR.. By James M. Beck, late Assistant Attorney-General of the U. S. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1914. pp. xxiv, 200.

Mr. BECK's book is the amplification of two articles written for the New York Times shortly after the beginning of the war. It adopts the somewhat novel form of a legal argument addressed to the "Supreme Court of Civilization," the evidence analyzed consisting of the diplomatic records of the contending nations, so far as these have been published. Unfortunately the French "Yellow Book" appeared after Mr. BECK's book was in press. We do not think, however, that its disclosures modify in the least degree his conclusions; rather do they afford additional evidence in their favor. Mr. BECK's argument is bottomed upon the idea that there is such a thing as a public conscience of mankind, which must in the last analysis pass judgment upon the conduct of the parties involved in the present war. He refers pointedly to that "decent respect to the opinion of mankind" to which the framers of the Declaration of Independence appealed in justifying their course of action. It seems unreasonable to suppose that anyone will question the soundness of this general proposition. The book is written in the sincerity of strong conviction which is supported by an analytic faculty unusually keen. Mr. BECK is convinced that Germany is chiefly responsible for the war, and this he proceeds to demonstrate by a careful examination of 'the evidence.' It should be said in this connection that he is concerned only with the immediate cause of the conflict; he makes no pretence of searching out fundamental causes.

In his discussion of the diplomatic correspondence preceding the war, Mr. BECK lays great stress, and we think justly, upon the suppression of vital evidence by Germany. Although the German foreign office protested vigorously that it was making strong efforts to restrain Austria, its official publication discloses not a single communication between the two chancelleries, while Austria has failed to submit any diplomatic records at all. Again Mr. BECK easily disposes of the contention of the German ambassador at St. Petersburg that the German government had no foreknowledge of the Austrian ultimatum. He shows clearly by the admissions of the German Foreign Office that it was consulted by Austria previous to the issuance of the ultimatum, and that it gave unreserved approval to any course of action Austria might